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The constitution provides that each county shall be laid off into districts of not less than three nor more than ten in number to be as nearly equal in territory and population as may be. Pocahontas county being the largest in the State is laid off into four districts and they lack a whole lot of being equal either in territory or population. We have given up all idea that a county court will ever be elected which will be bold enough to redistrict the county according to law and we are not at all sure that the people of the county desire any change. There are counties in West Virginia which are smaller than the smallest district of Pocahontas county. Our smallest district is larger than the combined area of Brooke and Hancock counties. The county of Ohio could be set down in the Greenbank district above the forks of the river and that district would never miss the territory. With such magnificent bounds there has grown in the minds of the people a pride in their magisterial districts which is like that of county or state pride. These districts have endured since the formation of the county. They each have their points of individuality. Greenbank is the district of the greatest altitude in the eastern part of the United States. Huntersville has the Knapps Creek Valley and ancient history. The Levels is the richest farm land district in West Virginia, and Edray District has George P. Moore.

These districts have been so stable that it is the common practice to name the district in the description of land in a conveyance. Each has its own school system and there has always been a sentiment to preserve the districts which had been fixed for many years before the constitution was adopted.

The loyal but highly inefficient county government during the reconstruction period, renamed the districts Grant, Lincoln, Meade and Union but did not change the lines. As soon as the disabilities of the old Confederates were removed they changed the names back, which constitutes about the only deft that we were guilty of as restored citizens, except the time when a bunch of Confederate girls cut down the United States flag at the Greenbrier bridge and caused their men folks to have nervous prostration.

Some years back we chafed at the manifest inequality of these magisterial districts, but the older we get, the more we value old, established things, and the associations that each stands for. We can see that time has hallowed even the bounds of a school district and we would not change them if we could. Inability alone has kept us all from doing many foolish things.

Huntersville district has occupied the position of goat in this division and the only reason it has not gained territory is because of the conservatism of her people who have never desired a change. There was a time when the town of Huntersville in the district of Huntersville, like Rome, set upon her hills and ruled the world. She chose as her western boundary the Greenbrier River and her eastern border the top of the main Alleghany mountain.

A school house was built at the Greenbrier Bridge west of the river. Three families lived on the east side of the river and Huntersville in a royal manner ceded some thousands of acres to Edray district to accommodate these three families in school matters. By so doing she lost the site of the town of Marlinton. But for that the best town in the Greenbrier Valley would have been a part of Huntersville district and that district would have retained the county seat.

This loss of territory and the moving of the county seat some twenty odd years ago were the severest blows suffered by Huntersville district. Some years ago, she helped herself to all of the thousands of acres she had lost except 640 acres in the heart of Marlinton, and captured one im-

portant suburb of the town.

Last year that devoted district made another move which in a small way repeated the mistake of the eighties when she lost Marlinton. At Clover Lick, there were a few families located on the east side of the river which wanted to get into Edray district on account of the school on the west side of the river and Huntersville let go about fifty acres this time. This order was entered March 4, 1913, and about April 1, 1913, F. S. Wise & Sons bought the seven mile tract of the Pocahontas Tanning Company and located their big band saw mill and town on the Brown place within the bounds of the fifty acres that had been ceded to Edray district, and Huntersville is deprived of the benefit of this big tax ticket. It often appears in this life that luck continues bad for a long time and then gets worse.

After the settlement at Jamestown in 1606, it was over a hundred years before the white people got as far west as the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge, and it was still later that a settlement was made in the Valley of Virginia. The Blue Ridge near the Potomac offered less of a barrier than the mountain farther south and the oldest town in the Valley, Winchester, was founded in the first part of the eighteenth century. The country was soon settled by the Pennsylvania Germans, who retained their native language and customs. The lands of the Shenando Valley attracted the Germans in great quantities and the settlements moved south, but through the instrumentality of John Lewis, who had settled near what is now Staunton, this steady immigration was met by the Scotch-Irish from the northern part of Ireland, who came to this part of Virginia in great numbers in the thirties and forties of that century. John Lewis landed in Portugal about the year 1729, and thence to America and he was the pioneer of the settlers of Augusta County, which county was formed in 1745. John Lewis probably established himself in the Valley in 1732, and it is certain that his ability to colonize was so great that in 1738 there were enough people living in the vicinity of Staunton to require churches and schools. He was a man of education, and force and power, and he transferred the people who were fleeing from the north of Ireland by the ship-load to Augusta county. It is to this highly effective man that the people of Augusta, Rockbridge, Highland, Bath, Alleghany and the Greenbrier Valley owe their distinctive citizenship, and full credit ought to be given him for his enterprise by our people. If there is anything in monuments, he ought to have one as enduring as the pyramids of Egypt. Some histories have it that John Lewis came to the valley by the way of Pennsylvania, but this is probably a mistake. John Lewis came by way of Jamestown to Williamsburg, the capital of the colony.

At this place he got his first information of the southern part of the Valley from a man by the name of John Salling. John Marlin and John Salling had some years before gone from Winchester as far south as the Roanoke River, where Salling was captured by the Cherokee Indians and remained in captivity for several years. With Lewis at that time was a man by the name Mackey. The three men, John Lewis, John Mackey and John Salling came to the Valley. Lewis settled at Staunton; Mackey at Buffalo Gap; and Salling at the forks of the James River near Clifton Forge. Lewis set to work to bring his friends to the new country. Mackey and Salling lived and died without taking any part in the colonization of the Valley.

Benjamin Burden was agent for Lord Fairfax. Lewis met him in Williamsburg in 1736. Burden went back with him to the Valley. They hunted together with Samuel and Andrew Lewis, sons of John Lewis. They captured a buffalo calf and took it as a present to Governor Gooch. Gooch entered an order allowing Burden to locate 500,000 acres on the waters of the James and the Shenando on the condition that one hundred families be settled on the located lands within ten years.

It must be presumed that Lewis kept in touch with his home people

in Ireland during these years. Any way, one hundred families all from the north of Ireland, were settled within one year and this is the reason that by 1738, churches and schools were needed in the vicinity of what is now Staunton. In 1745 enough people had settled to form the county of Augusta and the town of Staunton was founded the same year. Frederick county was formed in 1738, and the town of Winchester something earlier. As late as 1852, Winchester was the largest town west of the Blue Ridge, in Virginia; with the exception of Wheeling. The Lewis settlement of Scotch-Irish had cut across the path of the German settlers from Pennsylvania. Rockingham was the farthest south of the German countries. Washington in his desperation turned to the fighting Scotch-Irish of Augusta, and not to the peaceful, Quakerlike Germans.

John Lewis included in his plans the occupation of the Greenbrier Valley, which with its rich limestone lands, was like the country around Staunton. His Scotch-Irish settlements expanded to the south and west for various reasons.

A great deal of his 100,000 acre grant taken in the name of the Greenbrier Colony was located in the Big Levels around Lewisburg. This was a treeless plateau country. It had all the appearance of a prairie. The land was rich and by 1763 the country was pretty well settled. Dates are hard to get, but we mark this date well because this was the year that the Indians put them all out of their summer hunting grounds, killing a number and raiding as far east as Staunton. About 1765, the settlers commenced to come back.

Lewisburg was probably named from General Andrew Lewis who assembled his forces there, which he took to Point Pleasant and fought the battle at that place. It was first called the Savannah, because of its being a prairie, and later Camp Union.

In 1751, John Lewis, with his son Andrew Lewis surveying the 470 acres at Marlinton. Andrew Lewis was 31 years of age. John Lewis was 73 years old. They found a trapper here by the name of Jacob Marlin, from whom this town takes its name, it being first called Marlin Bottom. Jacob Marlin trapped out of Winchester as did John Marlin, and we have often wondered if they were not really the same man.

John Lewis was born in Donegal, the extreme northwestern county of Ireland, in the province of Ulster in the year 1678. In 1729 he killed a man and fled the country. He went to Portugal and thence to Williamsburg in the Virginia Colony. He made it possible for the Scotch Irish to settle in Virginia and he is the forerunner of the Scotch-Irishmen of this part of the country. He filled the country with Macs. He died at Staunton, February 1, 1762. We, the people of these Scotch-Irish counties owe more to him than to any other man connected with the early history of America.

Did you all get a letter last week which starts off: "Dear Mr. —: May be the whiskey you are drinking suits you to a T." We got one. It was very familiar. It was from a distillery company. It called us by name. It attracted immediate attention. We pondered over it and wondered where we had formed this barroom acquaintance. Being something of a "free-nigger" in regard to the use of liquor, we were not in the market for the goods its advertised, but we try to endure every barroom acquaintance that we ever made, so we replied to the letter in the spirit in which it was sent, as the man said about branded peaches: "Instead of 'a T,' do you not mean 'D. T.?'"

Women have declared war on certain senators who come up for reelection this fall. Should these candidates be defeated, and a clue be sought to determine the cause, the old police plan of looking for the female, will probably furnish one. Who are the rulers of us? To whom shall we bend the knee! Make you, your peace with the women, or suffer a sure n. g.

The Secretary of the Navy terminated a couple of engagements the other day when he let a couple of officers come home to get married.

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Some of the Governor's friends have put on the boiler-plate of righteousness, and a large number of the Republican papers have published a long article showing that the change at the institution for the deaf, dumb and blind children was for the good of the institution and that the new superintendent was going to improve conditions there. It maybe that this will be exactly what will happen, for if ever an administration was put in a position where it was compelled to make good, it is in this identical case, where such a shift was made. A short time since the new superintendent belonged to a syndicate which made a practice of buying in lands for taxes. This indicates thrift and management but not humanity. We once heard a man who was an unsuccessful candidate for a position on the board of control say that in the item of salt alone the State could be saved many dollars in the conduct of its humane institutions. We implored him however to be liberal with the use of salt for the unfortunates, for we saw an evidence of fine management such as Oliver Twist had to contend with when he was put forward by the other orphans to ask for a second helping. The only thing left for this administration to do, is to be so liberal with that Romney school that we who kicked on the change will become thoroughly ashamed of ourselves.

"Hello! Is this Marlinton? The hardware store? Say, I wish you would send me us a pair of hames, ten pounds of tennenny nails, and a new grate for our stove, by parcel post. And give me the meat shop, so I can get some steak for supper." Who would want to live in town, with the telephone and parcel post in working order? A farmer can clear ten acres of ground in the time he used to spend going to the store.

The Woman's National Democratic League has the right idea of politics. What does a vote amount to anyway? If a woman does not have a vote she can send a hand. She can get the right to vote any day that she collectively desires it. They are in control already but they have not fully decided within themselves whether they had better undertake the huge contract of casting the votes of the nation.

The Blue Sky law is threatened. In Michigan, which has a similar law to West Virginia, in a contested case in the Federal Court, the law was held unconstitutional. This starts it to the Supreme Court of the United States which will finally determine the point. The Blue Sky law requires all selling stock propositions to be approved, by the state authorities and is meant to guard investors against fraudulent schemes. The point raised is that good corporations cannot sell stock or securities without going to the trouble and expense of securing a permit to do business in a state, and that by this manner states attempt to regulate commerce among the several states, a power delegated by the constitution to Congress. The answer should be easy. Let Congress pass a blue sky law. Why make so many bites at a cherry?

Since the Governor has appointed Viquesney to be Game Warden for another term, we are perfectly willing to terminate our feud with the Governor when he fired Cary Montague. As he probably knows nothing of the feud, it is not so hard to back track. Viquesney is the only man who ever had the game wardenship in West Virginia, who was able to do anything with it. He is a man of ideas and good executive ability and that department of the state government has ceased to be a joke and a reproach since he has had the management of it. It is not likely that his equal could be secured for this place in West Virginia.

In New York state the other night, a chicken fancier went into a neighbor's hen house and took therefrom fifteen fine hens. As he was operating upon the said chickens in the said unlawful manner, he dropped a wallet containing \$90.00 in currency, which the owner of the chickens in lieu of his fowls. There is no clue to the identity of the person who dropped \$90 in lifting eight dollars worth of poultry, but it is thought that he must have been a saw-mill man.

Blind Senator Gore went after his adversaries with blood in his eye. The evidence of a conspiracy is pretty conclusive. It is bad enough to lay a trap for any man, to say nothing of a blind man.

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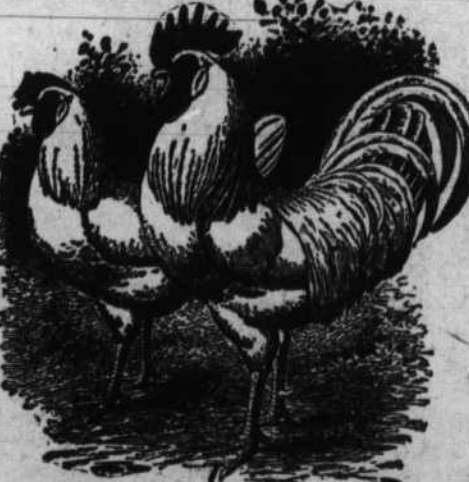
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Dame Rumor hath it that we are going to have a special session along about May. The old darkey was sentenced to be hung. "And on Friday, the 23rd day of May, you shall be taken out and hung by the neck, until you are dead, dead, dead, and may God have mercy upon your soul." The old darkey inquired: "Boss, do you mean this comin' May." So about this coming May, things will begin to happen, maybe.

The trouble with the Mexican war news is that the careful reader soon begins to distrust all accounts that are published about that distracted country. Apparently there is not a man on either side that can be trusted as far as you can throw a bull by the tail.

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